

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6145

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, IT

SUBJECT: PRE-LICENSE CHECK: SOC F.E.R.T. VIA PORTUENSE 100,
00153 ROME, ITALY

REF: STATE 46088

1. SIG. ORLANDO PALADINI, DIRECTOR OF F.E.R.T., TOLD EMBOFF HE PURCHASING THE SIX RK 7156 ELECTRON TUBES IN BEHALF OF ANOTHER FIRM, A.S.E.T. SUD S.P.A., VIA DELLE MONACHELLE K.M. 1.5, 00040 POMEZIA, ITALY IN WHICH SIG. PALADINI HAS A TEN PERCENT INTEREST. ACCORDING TO PALADINI, A.S.E.T. HAS WON A BID TO SUPPLY THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE WITH A LARGE VARIETY OF ELECTRON TUBES, INCLUDING THE SIX RK 7156.

2. EMBOFF SUBSEQUENTLY INTERVIEWED SIG. CARLO BERTONCINI, ONE OF THE DIRECTORS OF A.S.E.T. AND ALSO A TEN PERCENT SHAREHOLDER. SIG. BERTONCINI CONFIRMED PALADINI'S STATEMENTS. EMBOFF EXAMINED COPIES OF ITALIAN AIR FORCE BID REQUEST WHICH INCLUDED REQUIREMENT FOR SIX RK 7156 TUBES FOR USE BY ITALIAN AIR FORCE DEFENSE TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TELECONDIFE, DEPARTMENT ONE). ALSO EXAMINED WAS COPY OF A.S.E.T. OFFER OF SIX RK 7156 TUBES AT 2,250,000 LIRE EACH. SIG. BERTONCINI SAID THAT HE HAS RECEIVED ONLY INFORMAL CONFIRMATION FROM ITALIAN AIR FORCE THAT HIS FIRM HAS WON THE BID, BUT HE DESIRES TO ORDER TUBES IN ADVANCE TO ALLOW EXTRA TIME FOR TESTING AND, IF THEY ARE NOT UP TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDARD, ORDERING NEW ONES IN TIME FOR AIR FORCE CONSIGNMENT

DEADLINE.

3. EMBASSY NOTES THAT 80 PERCENT SHAREHOLDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF A.S.E.T. IS ALBERTO BRUSCAGLI WHO, PER ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS, WAS INDICTED, AMONG OTHERS, IN LATE 1971 FOR FRAUD IN FURNISHING MILITARY MATERIALS TO THE STATE, FOR CORRUPTION, AND FOR FALSE RECORD KEEPING. SPECIFICALLY, THE FIRM STIRER S.P.A., OF WHICH BRUSCAGLI WAS A DIRECTOR, WON A BID TO SUPPLY THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES WITH RADIOS FOR TANKS UNDER THE CONDITION THAT THE RADIOS BE NEW AND BE 80 PERCENT ITALIAN MADE. STIRER, INSTEAD OF PRODUCING THE RADIOS AS AGREED, GOT ANOTHER FIRM TO PROCURE MILITARY SURPLUS RADIOS FROM THE U.S., PASSING THEM OFF AS NEW AND OF PRIMARILY ITALIAN ORIGIN. THE CASE IS STILL BEING TRIED. THE NEWS-PAPERS HAVE ALSO SAID THAT BRUSCAGLI, AND TEN OTHER MEN INDICTED WITH HIM, WERE ALSO SUSPECTED OF ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFIC WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

4. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT SIG. PALADINI AND SIG. BERTONCINI ADMITTED TO EMBOFF THAT F.E.R.T. AND A.S.E.T. HAD BID AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE ELECTRON TUBE CONTRACT AND HAVE ASKED THE EMBASSY NOT INFORM AIR FORCE THAT F.E.R.T., WHICH LOST THE BID, IS SUPPLYING SOME OF THE TUBES VIA A.S.E.T.

5. IN VIEW OF ABOVE SOMEWHAT UNSAVORY BACKGROUND, AND FACT THAT A.S.E.T. DOES NOT YET HAVE FIRM WRITTEN CONTRACT FROM AIR FORCE, EMBASSY WISHES DEFER PRE-SHIPMENT RECOMMENDATION UNTIL FULL AIR FORCE PURCHASE DOCUMENTATION IS AVAILABLE AND CONFIRMED. VOLPE

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